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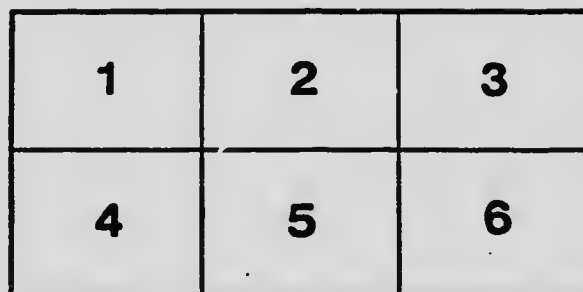
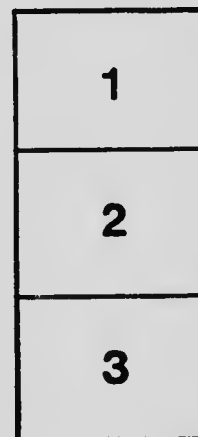
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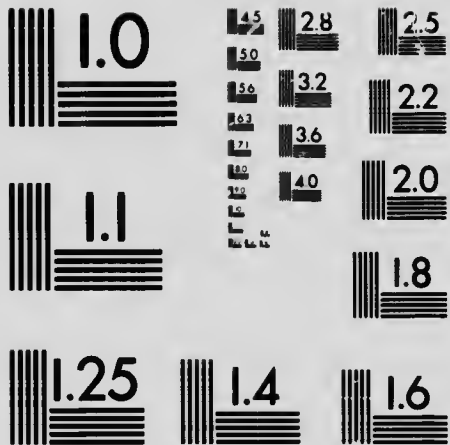
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Canada's
Opportunity at
Home and
Abroad.

BY
D. W. ROWELL, K.C.

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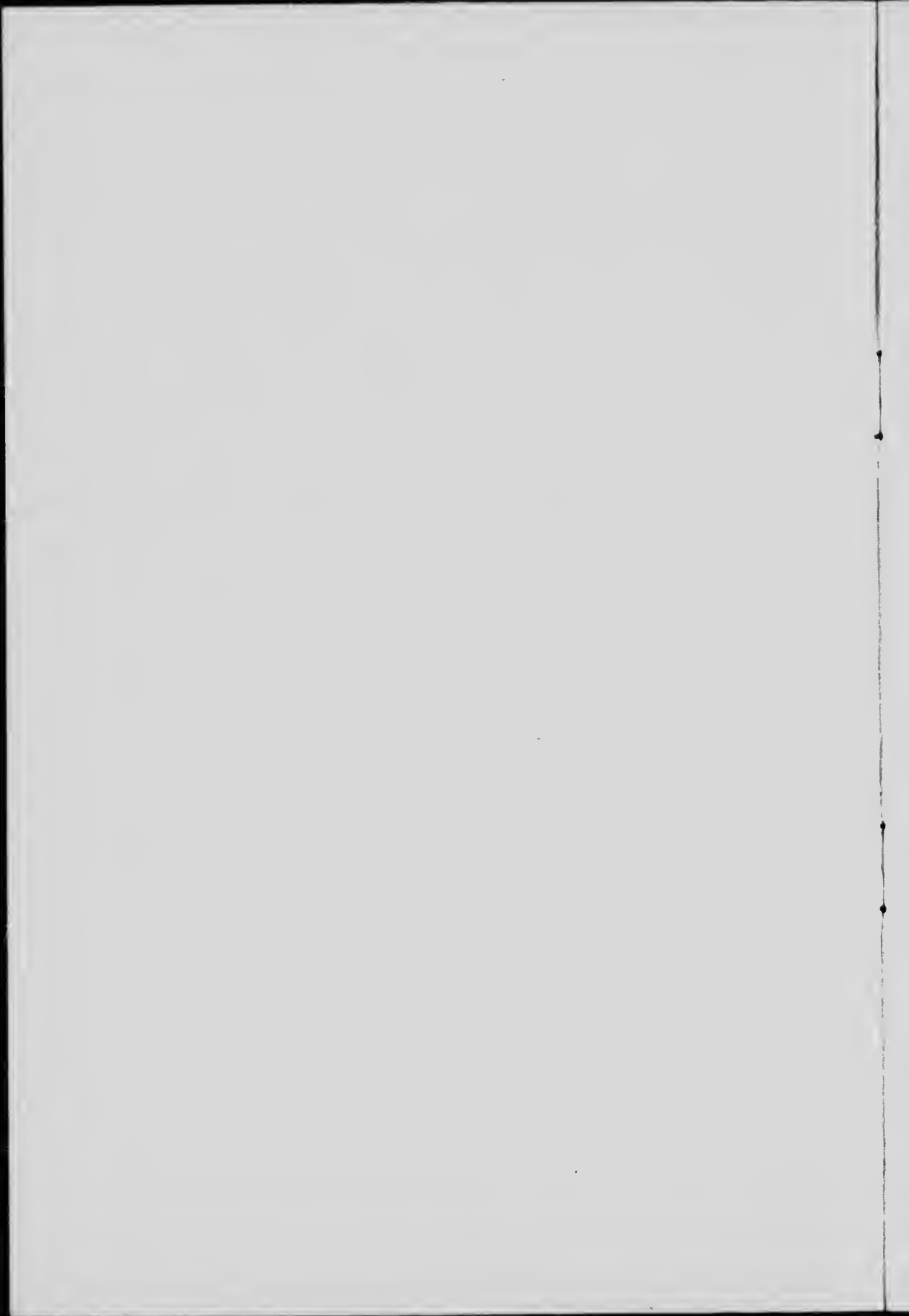
Canada's Opportunity at Home and Abroad

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CANADA'S OPPORTUNITY AT HOME AND ABROAD.

N. W. ROWELL, K.C., TORONTO.

Carlyle has said, "Of a man or of a nation, we enquire . . . first of all, what religion they had. Answering this question is giving us the soul of the history of the man or nation. The thoughts they had were the parents of the actions they did; their feelings were parents of their thoughts; it was the unseen and spiritual in them that determined the outward and actual; their religion, as I say, was the great fact about them."

If we would rightly interpret the history of the nations of ancient or modern times, we must understand their religion. Religion has ever been the most potent factor in individual and national life. Dr. Lyman Abbott in a recent article expresses this thought where he states that nature worship has given to the world Africa, agnosticism represented in Confucianism has given to the world China, pantheism has given to the world India, and Christianity has given to the world Europe and America.

Canada's supreme opportunity at home is not in the development of her resources; or in the regulation of her trade; or in the improvement of her political relations or even in the establishment of a navy, or in all these combined—her supreme opportunity at home is in making the religion of Christ a real and vital thing to all her people, and her supreme opportunity abroad is in helping to make this religion known to the non-Christian nations of the world.

Canada's opportunity at home.—That we may better appreciate the greatness and significance of this opportunity let us briefly recall to our minds the extent and general characteristics of our country and the number and character of our immigrants and settlers.

Canada with a present population of not more than 7,000,000 is larger than the United States including Alaska, the Philippines, Porto Rico, and its other possessions with their combined population

of over 100,000,000. Canada has almost as large an area as the continent of Europe with its 400,000,000 people. It has 33 per cent. of the total area of the British Empire with its population of over 400,000,000. From Sydney on the Atlantic to Vancouver on the Pacific is 3,500 miles; and from the international boundary north to Herschel Island—the most northerly mission station of any of our Canadian Churches—is 1,400 miles. You say area is relatively unimportant; Canada lies so near the North Pole that but a small proportion of the total area is reasonably habitable by man. This view for many years largely prevailed in Europe, in a measure in the United States, and even to some extent in our own country; exploration and investigation are rapidly dispelling this erroneous conception.

What is our situation and what the habitable area? It is an interesting fact that probably 25 per cent. of the total area of the United States lies north of the city of Toronto. Edinburgh is 800 miles and St. Petersburg 1,100 miles north of Toronto. But you say the warm currents of the Atlantic so moderate the climate on the west coast of Europe that these figures have no application. The warm currents of the Atlantic find their counterpart in the warm currents of the Pacific, and the climate on the west coast of America is largely similar to that on the west coast of Europe. Dawson City, the most northerly city in Canada, is 1,400 miles north of Toronto. It is as far north of Toronto as Mexico City is south. It is as far north of the international boundary as Los Angeles is south. It is undoubtedly true that very large areas in the northern part of Canada, so far as we know at present, are not reasonably habitable, but Canada has an area almost as large as the United States which is reasonably habitable so far as climate is concerned. Even within this restricted area, as large as the United States, there may be large areas the value of which we have not as yet ascertained—if any value they possess—as the home of man, but in every large country there are areas of barren land unsuitable for cultivation and largely unoccupied by man. After making all due allowance, there still remains an area at least half as large as the continent of Europe which, so far as we know at present, should be the home of men. We have great varieties of climate, but nowhere is the climate so warm as to be enervating, and everywhere it should breed a strong, aggressive and a conquering race. It is not possible at present to form an accurate estimate of the extent or richness of our great natural resources. It is not

possible to foretell, or even hazard a judicious guess as to the limits of the future development of our agricultural, our mineral and our manufacturing industries. That they will surpass the expectations of even the most sanguine goes without saying. Certain it is that the extent of territory open for settlement, and the richness and variety of the resources ensure that in the very near future these territories must be the home of many millions of people. Lord Strathcona has said, "At the end of the twentieth century Canada will have a population twice as large as the British Isles." The extent of our territory, our geographical position, our climate, ensure a material development equalled by few countries of the world. Into these new territories and the large centres of population in the East the immigrants are coming by the thousands. The settlers of the past five years are now largely in the majority in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Manitoba and Northern Ontario, as well as the large centres of population in the older parts of Canada, have also received their share of this incoming tide. That these immigrants are not simply passing through the country, but are taking up land and making our country their home, is evidenced by the fact that in the four years preceding 1907 more Government land was taken up, more homestead entries made in the provinces west of the Great Lakes than in the whole 28 years preceding. It seems as if in the no distant future the balance of population in Canada may be west of the Great Lakes, and that the controlling factors in our social, political and religious life may be the social, political and religious forces and ideals which dominate that western land. No man can afford to be indifferent to the conditions prevailing there.

American and Canadian immigration compared.—We have wondered at the volume of immigration to the United States and have felt, perhaps, not without cause, that they have not been able entirely to assimilate, Americanize and evangelize the immense number of immigrants they have received. There are sections of the United States where the Sabbath is not respected, where Christian institutions are not held in esteem, and where the general laws of the land are not observed as they are in the older and better settled portions of either their country or ours. Their Churches have not been able to bring all these incoming multitudes under the power and influence of the Gospel in such a way as to transform their lives and bring them into harmony with the laws, the institutions and the Christian ideals which they, as we, covet and hold

dear. The Gospel of Christ has not cleared the way and laid the foundations. But great as has been their immigration it has never in any decade during the past hundred years exceeded an average of one per cent. per annum of their population, and in no year has it exceeded more than about one and a half per cent. In Canada during the five years from 1901 to 1906 our average annual immigration exceeded two and a quarter per cent. of our population, and during the year 1907 it was between four and five per cent. In proportion to our population we received in the year 1907 about three times as many immigrants as the United States received in any year of its history. The United States had a population of over 20,000,000 before the people of that country were called upon to receive and bring into touch with their American and Christian ideals as many immigrants as we were called upon to receive and endeavor to assimilate in the year 1907.

Let us not forget that the immigrants are not coming to us like pilgrims to New England for "freedom to worship God, but solely to improve their material condition, and naturally their dominant thought and great objective is their own material advancement. We are supplying them with lands, homes and all kinds of opportunities for material well-being, but we must ever remind ourselves, "Man cannot live by bread alone." The peril of these new communities is that in the effort to gain the world they lose their souls. What are we doing to supply their deeper needs—those unseen things that abide and are eternal? The supreme question in Canada to-day is, What will be the religious life of these new communities? The Churches must act now. Our whole future depends on what the Churches do now. Was there ever given to the Churches of any land a greater opportunity and a graver responsibility?

All our Churches are seeking to meet the needs of these settlers, but so far none of them have been able to satisfactorily overtake what they deem to be their share of this work—that is, either to supply a sufficient number of properly qualified men, or to provide adequate means for their support. In the new and sparsely settled districts, there is unfortunately an amount of overlapping and duplicating of work by the different denominations, which should be avoided and by a display of Christian co-operation and practical business common sense could be avoided with great advantage to the communities served, and to the Churches concerned, by releasing men and money for needed work elsewhere. But, after making

all due allowance for this overlapping, more qualified men and larger financial resources are urgently needed.

Our country is just in the process of making. Her future depends largely on the work of this generation. By the time another generation comes upon the scene, the foundation will have been laid and the general character of the superstructure determined. Now is the hour of our supreme opportunity. In this new country the Christian faith has found a deep and abiding place in the minds and hearts of the masses of the people. We are happily free from many of the social, industrial and political problems which are so characteristic of the countries of Europe, conditions inherited from the past and which baffle the skill of the wisest statesmen and social reformers; we are so far happily free, or largely so, from many of the industrial and social problems which our American friends find so difficult to deal with. This freedom enlarges our opportunities and greatly increases our responsibilities.

What has the future in store for us? The material development of the past ten years forms no adequate basis from which to judge of the development of the future. The progress may not be uniform or uninterrupted. There may, and very probably will be, an ebb in the tide of immigration but only to be followed by a greater flow. Who can number the millions who, before the close of the century, will occupy this Canada of ours? Who can foretell the tides of commerce which will sweep across our land when Canada in the vigor of her youth stretches out her hands towards Europe and Asia? Who can foretell Canada's place in the world's politics when in the fulness of her strength she stands by her mother in the councils of the Empire, and through the Empire makes her influence felt in the world? Whether that future will be worthy or unworthy depends not on our material resources, nor our material development, but on the life and the character of our citizens. This life and character will be the outcome of their religious beliefs. If true to our privileges and opportunities, we should be able on this half of the North American continent to develop the best type of Christian civilization this world has known. This is Canada's opportunity at home.

Canada's opportunity abroad.—Foreign missions in the sense in which our fathers used the term, have no existence to-day. Steam and electricity have annihilated distance and made this world one great community. And what is Canada's place in this

community? She stands on the highway of commerce between Europe and Asia, her Eastern ports nearer Europe, her Western nearer Asia, than even those of our American neighbors to the south.

In the Middle Ages the Mediterranean was the great highway of commerce between the civilized nations of the world. With the discovery of America, its settlement and development, the Atlantic became what the Mediterranean once was. With the awakening of the Orient, where lives more than half of the race, the Pacific Ocean must be in the future the greatest highway of trade among the nations of the earth, and during this century on and around this ocean, must the world's great drama largely be acted. Canada, with her face to the Pacific, must in this drama, play no inconspicuous part. We realize the position which Japan holds in the world's politics to-day. If we multiply the power and influence of Japan by ten, we may form some faint estimate of the position which China will hold in the days to come. Japan, China, India—all the nations of the East—are taking the science, the inventions, the military ideals, the Western learning, of our Christian civilization.

Is it not a strange and significant thing that the all-wise Father has only unlocked to those nations which have the outlook and uplift of our Christian faith, those mysterious and secret forces of the universe which have, by their utilization, placed such tremendous power in the hands of man? And if these mighty forces are to be instruments in the hands of these Eastern peoples for their social and moral progress and uplift rather than instruments for their or our undoing, it will only be as they come to know Him "in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

"How, then, shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?"

If Canada is in the process of making, these nations are in the process of remaking. By the time another generation comes upon the scene the character of the new Orient will be largely determined. Now is the hour of our supreme opportunity abroad.

Will Canada help to give these nations the moral energy and spiritual outlook of her Christian faith?

What does this opportunity involve? It has been estimated that if the Churches of Canada assumed their share of world respon-

sibility they should undertake the evangelization of not less than 40,000,000 in non-Christian lands. By evangelization we mean, to make intelligible the Gospel of our Lord to those who know Him not, and this we should do in this generation. To do this work we would require one missionary leader for every 25,000 people; this means 1,600 missionaries. We now have over 400. We should increase our force by about 1,200. That we are well able to supply this force no one will seriously question. If we allow \$2,000 annually for each missionary leader, his staff of native assistants and a share of the cost of the plant and equipment required, we require a total annual income of not less than \$3,200,000. Our contributions to foreign missions for 1907-8 amounted to only about \$700,000. We must therefore increase these contributions by \$2,500,000. To efficiently do our home mission work, we should increase our annual contributions from about \$1,000,000, the present income, to not less than \$1,300,000; making the total annual missionary income required \$4,500,000.*

We have about 900,000 communicant Church members in all our Churches other than the Roman and Greek Catholic. This only

*Since this estimate was made a question has been raised as to the relative amounts to be devoted to Home and Foreign Missions. It should be said by way of explanation that there is no necessary connection or relation between the amounts named for Home and Foreign Missions. The object in naming these amounts was to suggest an approximate estimate of the total amount necessary to carry on the work both at home and abroad. It also must be borne in mind that our Western country is daily becoming better settled, and the condition of the settlers is rapidly improving. The circuits and charges that are home missions to-day will be off the fund in one, two or three years, because in that short period of time they become self-supporting, and the missionary moneys now being expended on these charges will be available for the support of new home missions, and this process is continuous. In Foreign Mission work the conditions are entirely different, and we cannot expect self-support for years to come. There is this further consideration: many careful observers believe the authorities of the different churches should get together in carrying on the work in Canada, the same as they do in carrying on Foreign Mission work abroad, and co-operate so as to prevent unnecessary overlapping and duplication of work. The result would be that the work could be more efficiently done, and men and money would be released for work elsewhere. But if the amount estimated for Home Mission work is inadequate, it only means that the total amount to be raised must be increased proportionately, and we must work all the harder to bring our income up to a point where we can do our duty both at home and abroad.

The order in which the work is done either at home or abroad, and the amounts which in the meantime should be expended on Home and Foreign Mission work, respectively, is, of course, determined by the Mission Boards of each church charged with the administration of the funds, and is in no way affected by these estimates.

means an average contribution of \$5.00 per communicant Church member. That we are well able to provide the money is self-evident.

When Roman power had subdued the nations and established Roman authority throughout the civilized world; when Roman roads made travel possible and drew the nations together; when the Greek language had spread to the ends of the earth and become a universal tongue; when Judean hearts longed for the coming of the Promised One; in the fulness of time Christ came. Before He ascended to the Father He commissioned His disciples to the task of world conquest. "Go ye . . . and make disciples of all the nations." A few men against a world sunken in sin; but with what faith and consecration and success they undertook the work. Many might bear the testimony of St. Paul: "In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft . . . but none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself."

To every land the Gospel message was carried; our pagan ancestors in the Island of Britain received the word and it transformed their lives. Dr. Goldwin Smith, in his political history of the United Kingdom tells us, "It introduced an opposition to the warlike type, the Christian type of character, the Gospel virtues of charity, meekness, readiness to forgive, the saintly and ascetic ideal, the notion of sin against God, where before there had only been that of wrong done to, and avenged by man . . . It proclaimed the spiritual equality of the sexes and the humane rights of the slave." All that is best and truest, all that we most covet in our civilization, comes to us as the result of these early missionary labors of the "foreign missionaries" who came from the East to the West. Christianity has given to the world Europe and America.

To-day despotism is everywhere giving way to constitutional forms of government and men are being made free to think and act for themselves. Law and order are being everywhere established and life and property protected. Steam and electricity have made for us a path through the seas as well as on dry land. We are almost borne on the wings of the wind to the most remote parts of the earth—some day we may be. The work of the translator, and the printing press has made it possible for all men, "for Parthians and Medes and Elamites and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia, in Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and in the parts of Lybia about Cyrene and

strangers of Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians" to hear men speak in their own tongues "the wonderful works of God."

The work of Women's Missionary Societies has created a missionary atmosphere in many of our homes, a spirit of prayer and expectancy. The Student Volunteer Movement has raised up a well-equipped and well-trained army for conquest. God has given to the Christian men of the world a large share of the world's wealth, all the material resources necessary to accomplish the task: and their own salvation depends on its right use. The spirit of Christian unity among the various Christian bodies has made possible the practical co-operation so essential in a mighty undertaking. The work done and information gathered by missionaries on the field has made possible the planning of a comprehensive and adequate policy. There has come to many of the men of this generation a new vision of what Christianity really means, and now, "in the fulness of time" Christ has come and says to the Church, "Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations."

In the days of the Crusades the chivalry of Europe—the best blood of many lands—freely gave their lives to rescue the empty tomb of our risen Lord from the hands of the infidel; they went with fire and sword to kill, not to make alive. To-day we are called to another Crusade; not to rescue an empty tomb, but to present to dying men their risen and ascended Lord; not to kill but to make alive; to carry hope and new life to countless millions who sit in darkness. In this Crusade who would not join?

The Canadian colonies led the way in federation. Australia followed our example, and the colonies of South Africa are now seeking to find strength in union. Canada led the way in the union of the various branches of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. Canada has led the way in the negotiations for a larger and more comprehensive Church union. The Christian men of Canada are the first to gather together in a great National Congress to consider their missionary privileges and responsibilities. As the Roman was called to teach the world law; the Greek to teach the world art; the Hebrew to teach the world religion; so we in Canada, if true to our opportunities, may be called to lead the world in the work of world-wide evangelization. This is Canada's supreme opportunity abroad.

In our national campaign last autumn, extending from Sydney

to Victoria, touching every province of the Dominion, we submitted to the Christian men at the centres of population visited, this question: "Will Canada evangelize her share of the world?" The response was everywhere clear and unequivocal: "Canada can and will."

This great gathering is the culmination of that campaign, and the proposition which, as president of this Congress, it is my privilege to submit to you, is this: Will Canada evangelize her share of the world and will she undertake this work now?

